

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polylactic acid resin composition, comprising:
 poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%;
 poly-D-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%; and
 a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral and one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;

wherein:

the one of said poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral to the exclusion of the other of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid ~~is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral~~; and

the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

2. (Previously Presented) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the lamellar clay mineral is organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group, and the one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid bonded to the lamellar clay mineral is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral through the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt.

3. (Previously Presented) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or

polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

4. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, the method comprising:

mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%,

polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and

mixing the poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-D-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-D-lactic acid is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;

wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

5. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, the method comprising:

mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%,

polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and

mixing the poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-L-lactic acid is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;

wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

6. (Withdrawn) A molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1 that has been melt molded and recrystallized.

7. (Withdrawn) A molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2 that has been melt molded and recrystallized.

8. (Withdrawn) A molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 3 that has been melt molded and recrystallized.

9. (Withdrawn) The molded article according to claim 6, wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.

10. (Previously Presented) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

11. (Withdrawn) The molded article according to claim 7, wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizing monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

12. (Withdrawn) The molded article according to claim 7, wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.

13. (Withdrawn) The molded article according to claim 8, wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.